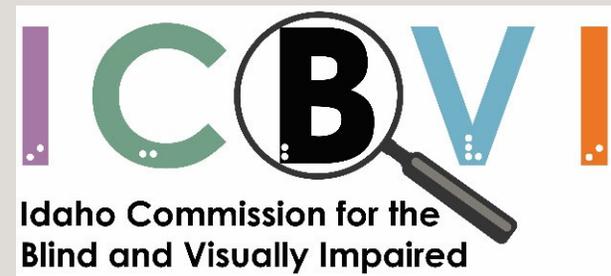


# IDAHO COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND & VISUALLY IMPAIRED PRESENTATION

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BY BETH CUNNINGHAM, M.A., CRC, CVE,  
ADMINISTRATOR



Attachment 11

# OUR MISSION

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Our mission is to empower people who are blind or visually impaired by providing vocational rehabilitation, skills training, and educational opportunities to achieve self-fulfillment through quality employment and independent living.

- 41.12 FTPs
- 2 vacancies
- In 2021 we served 1,533 Idahoans.

# AUDIT FINDINGS

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- Findings 2, 3, and 4 were corrected in December of 2019.
- Finding 1 is still in a partially corrected status. To get this finding fully corrected, we have addressed and outlined actions to take when BEP vendor inaccuracies are noted in our audits of their set aside reports.
- In effort to fully correct this finding, we have updated our internal practice for the biannual audits of the BEP vendors' financial data to satisfy and remedy the deficiency which was detailed in Finding 1.
- A total of 26 internal audits have been conducted since 2020.
- We anticipate this finding to be closed during our next follow-up with the audit team.

# FY2022 AND FY2023 APPROPRIATION

## LBB PAGE 6-57

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- FY 2022
  - We received 2 replacement vehicles.
  - These cars replaced other cars with high mileage that are used to provide services in our regions including rural counties in Idaho.
- FY2023
  - There are no line items, this is a maintenance budget.

# ICBVI SERVICES

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- Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)  
(6 VR counselors)
- Independent Living (IL/OB)
- Business Enterprise Program (BEP)
- Sight Restoration (SR)
- Low Vision Clinic
- ICBVI Store

# VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

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The goal of the Idaho Commission for the Blind's Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program is to help individuals with blindness and low vision in preparing for securing and maintaining integrated and competitive employment. Of the individuals placed into jobs in 2021, the average earnings were \$16.09 per hour.



# ASSESSMENT AND TRAINING CENTER

The Assessment and Training Center (ATC) at ICBVI serves Idahoans who are blind or visually impaired by teaching non-visual skills for 6 to 9 months that can help compensate for total vision loss or help to supplement low vision. Clients come from all around the state and stay in our dorms at the training center in Boise to learn these skills.

Idaho clients receive training in the ATC in 6 subject areas:

- Orientation and Mobility
- Braille
- Activities of Daily Living
- Job Readiness training
- Industrial Arts (shop)
- Activities of Daily Living
- Computer and Assistive Technology

# PRE-EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION SERVICES

Our Pre-ETS program continues to grow! 2019- **90** students served, 2020- **93** students, and 2021 – **120** students were served

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It is part of the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program to focus on students ages 14-21 who are enrolled in classes earning credits. ICBVI provides this service through our pre-employment transition service programs, which are designed to provide activities and opportunities that build skills and knowledge and empower the individual, ultimately leading to independence. These programs include:

- College Days
- Summer Work Experience Program
- VISTA Leadership
- Regional Work Based Readiness Activities



# INDEPENDENT LIVING/OLDER BLIND

The Independent Living Program provides guidance, training and other resources for visually impaired individuals. Being elderly and visually impaired doesn't mean a person has to move out of their own home.

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- Adapting the home environment
- Marking appliances for easier use
- Teaching computer skills for communication and socialization
- Mobility in the community/cane travel
- Peer support groups

The older blind population is growing in Idaho, and we are working hard to continue to meet the needs of our state's growing population. These services help prevent the older blind from pre-maturely entering nursing care facilities.



# SUCCESS STORY

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Quote from Dawn:

"If it wasn't for the Commission for the Blind, I would have been out of the house a long time ago and in an assisted living center. The Independent Living Program taught me how to survive blind in this world. That is a big factor in helping me to stay home, especially in the world of technology. If it wasn't for assistance and encouragement from my rehabilitation teacher, I would not have become such a strong advocate for myself, and others like me."



# SIGHT RESTORATION

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This program is designed to pay for medical expenses related to procedures which preserve, stabilize and restore vision.

Examples would include:

- cataract extraction
- treatment for diabetic retinopathy
- procedure expected to prevent the onset of legal blindness or make a significant improvement in functional vision.

**We provided this service to 53 individuals in 2021**

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**THANK YOU FOR LISTENING AND FOR THE  
ONGOING SUPPORT FOR OUR AGENCY !  
I'M OPEN FOR QUESTIONS.**